

.t.is my Shepherd

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.



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HIS MYSTERIOUS WAYS

Not long ago my wife, Alma, died after nearly 58 years of marriage. She was my partner not only at home but also in my business, serving as listener, advisor and even an unpaid secretary at times. When I look back on the happiness we shared I realize ours was a match made in heaven. And I especially remember that day early in our marriage when I received the reassurance that she was meant for me.

Getting to know each other as newlyweds, we were sharing family photos. Alma pointed out different relatives and explained who was who: *"This is my grandmother and that's my uncle..."* She started to unroll a large group photograph. *"I'll have you know I was once at the White House."* She bragged.

"When?" I asked. She pointed at the date in the corner of the photo-1928-and I thought. That was when my parents took me to Washington, D.C. *"I went to the White House that year too."* I said.

"I actually shook hands with President Coolidge." She said.

"I did too." I added. I was 11 years old at the time. I would never forget that.

"We had our picture taken in front of the White House." She said.

"So did we."

"Here I am." She said. My eyes followed her finger to a willowy schoolgirl. Then to my amazement I spotted the familiar face of a pudgy fifth grader. I drew my finger beside Alma's and said. *"Here I am, right next to you."* Joined in the photo before we had ever met, we were now married-and remained so for 58 picture-perfect years.

Arthur Morgan, La Vale, Maryland
Guideposts-May 1997

REFLECTIONS

By Stan Manley

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THE PAINTING OF THE LAST SUPPER

(This is a story I collected from The Wichita Chronicle in December 1999 in Wichita, Kansas. I had forgotten about it and recently discovered it. I hope you enjoy. Stan)

The story behind the painting of the Last Supper is extremely interesting and instructive. Two incidents connected with this painting afford a most convincing lesson on the effects of thought in the life of a boy or girl, or of a man or woman.

The Last Supper was painted by Leonardo Da Vinci, a noted Italian artist. The time engaged for its completion was seven years. The figures representing the twelve apostles and Christ Himself were painted from living persons. The live model for the painting of the figure of Jesus was chosen first. When it was decided that Da Vinci would paint this great picture, hundreds and hundreds of young men were carefully viewed in an endeavor to find a face and personality completely devoid of dissipation caused by sin.

Finally, after weeks of laborious searching, a young man nineteen years of age was selected as the model of the portrayal of Christ. For six months, Da Vinci worked on the production of this leading character of the famous painting. During the next six years Da Vinci continued his labors on his sublime work of art. One by one, fitting persons were chosen to represent each of the eleven apostles, space being left for the painting of the figure representing Judas Escariot as the final task of this masterpiece. This was the apostle, you remember, who betrayed his Lord for thirty pieces of silver.

For weeks Da Vince searched for a man with a hard callous face, with a countenance marked by scars of avarice and deceit, who would betray his best friend. After many discouraging experiences in searching for the type of person required (Continued)

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(Continued) to represent Judas, word came to Da Vince that a man whose appearance fully met the requirements had been found. He was in a dungeon in Rome, sentenced to die for a life of crime and murder. Da Vince made the trip to Rome at once, and this man was brought out from his imprisonment in the dungeon and led out into the light of the sun. There Da Vince saw before him a dark, swarthy man; his long shaggy and unkempt hair sprawled over his face—a face that portrayed a character of viciousness and complete ruin. At last the painter had found the person he wanted to represent the character of Judas in his painting.

By special permission from the king, this prisoner was taken to Milan where the fresco was being painted. For six months the prisoner sat before Da Vince, at appointed hours each day, as the gifted artist diligently continued his task of transmitting to his painting this base character in the picture representing the traitor and betrayer of the Savior.

As he finished his last stroke, he turned to the guards and said, **“I have finished, you may take the prisoner away.”** The prisoner suddenly broke loose from their control and rushed up to Da Vince, crying as he did so; **“Oh, Da Vince, look at me! Do you not know who I am?”**

Da Vince, with the trained eyes of a great character student, carefully scrutinized the man upon whose face he had constantly gazed for six months and replies; **“No, I have never seen you in my life until you were brought before me out of the dungeon in Rome.”**

Then lifting his eyes toward heaven, the prisoner said, **“Oh God, have I fallen so low?”** Then turning his face to the painter he cried, **“Leonardo Da Vince, look at me again, for I am the same man you painted just seven years ago as the figure of Christ!”**

This is the true story of the painting of the Last Supper that teaches so strongly the lesson of the effects of right and wrong thinking of an individual. He was a young man whose character was so pure and unspoiled by the sins of the world, that he represented a countenance and innocence and beauty fit to be used for the painting of a representation of Christ. But during the seven years, following a life of sin and crime, he was changed into a perfect picture of the most notorious character ever known in the history of the world.

The Wichita Chronicle-December 1999

**MISSION STATEMENT:
TO ENCOURAGE THE FAITHFUL
TO SAVE THE LOST**



**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY
SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVES
IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE
ETERNAL LIFE. JOHN 3:16**



IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, DO IT TODAY.

WHICH TIRE WAS IT?

One sunny day, four high school boys couldn't resist the temptation to skip classes. The next morning they explained to their teacher that they had missed her class because their car had a flat tire. To their relief, she smiled and said. **“Well, you missed a quiz yesterday.”** But then she added. **“Take your seats and get out a pencil and paper. The first question is. Which tire was flat?”**

No one gets away with lying. In Acts 5, Ananias and Sapphira thought they were lying only to Peter and the other believers. But the apostle said to them, **“You have not lied to men but to God?”**

Truth is one of the attributes of Him. And sooner or later He will uncover every falsehood-if not in this life, then at the final judgment, when we each give an account of ourselves to God (Romans 14:10-12).

We live in a highly competitive world, and sometime we may be strongly tempted to shade the truth to get ahead. But with the long-term gains from lying are worth little compared with the long-term benefits of telling the truth.

If you have deceived someone, confess it to that person and to the Lord. It may be humbling, but it's the first step to restoring integrity in your life.

Dennis De Haan – Our Daily Bread

**HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY**